

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim 21 has been amended and new dependent claims 22-24 are presented for consideration. Thus, the claims currently pending in this application are Claims 1-15 and 17-24, with Claims 1, 18 and 21 being the only independent claims.

Independent Claim 21 has been amended to delete a portion of the original claim wording defining operational characteristics of the inside lever. This Amendment, which does not narrow the claim scope, has been made for purposes of ensuring consistency with the written description, particularly the eighth operation mode described in paragraph 0047 of the application.

Independent Claims 1, 18 and 21 have been rejected as being anticipated by the disclosure contained in U.S. Patent No. 5,802,894 to *Jahrsetz et al.* That rejection is respectfully traversed because the claims as presented in the previously filed Amendment do not read on, and are thus not anticipated by, the disclosure contained in *Jahrsetz et al.* In particular, *Jahrsetz et al.* is deficient at least insofar as the disclosed door lock does not include an inside lever movable into and out of engagement with an open link as recited in independent Claims 1 and 18, and does not include an inside lever having a part engageable with an engaging portion of the open link as set forth in independent Claim 21.

Considered in more detail, the door lock disclosed in *Jahrsetz et al.* includes a release lever 15 that is engageable with a release pin 14 provided on the keeper pawl 8.

The release lever 15 is provided with an abutment 16. The disclosed lock also includes a coupling lever 17 having a first lever portion 19 pivotably mounted on a pin 19a and a second lever portion 20 connected by way of a pin 19b to the first lever portion 19. As described in column 8, lines 49-51 of *Jahrsetz et al.*, the second lever portion 20 carries a coupling pin 18. A lever 26 is mounted on a pin 27 and is adapted to swing about the pin 27 through operation of an interior lever 9. The lever 26 is provided with a member 28 in which is formed a slot 29. The pin 18 provided on the second lever portion 20 is guided within this slot 29.

Fig. 2 of *Jahrsetz et al.* illustrates the coupling lever 17 in what is termed the "ineffective position" in which the pin 18 is located below the path of the abutment 16 on the release lever 15. In this ineffective position, if the interior lever 9 is lifted to cause a clockwise swinging movement of the levers 26, 28, the pin 18 on the second lever portion 20 does not contact the abutment 16 on the release lever 15. Thus, in this ineffective position of the coupling lever 17, lifting of the interior lever 9 does not result in rotation of the release lever 15 and thus does not cause rotation of the keeper pawl 8.

From the ineffective position shown in Fig. 2, the operation of the electric motor 30 causes the first lever portion 19 to swing in the counterclockwise direction about the pivot 19a. This causes the second lever portion 20 and the associated coupling pin 18 to move upwardly so that the coupling pin 18 is positioned in the path of the abutment 16 on the release lever 15 as shown in Fig. 1. This Fig. 1 position of the coupling lever 17 is referred to as the "effective position" of the coupling lever 17. In this effective position of

the coupling lever 17, when the interior lever 9 is lifted to rotate the lever 26, the coupling pin 18 on the second lever portion 20 contacts the abutment 16 of the release lever 15, thus pressing down on the pin 14 and causing the keeper pawl 8 to rotate or swing in the clockwise sense.

The Official Action observes that the member 28 disclosed in *Jahrsetz et al.* corresponds to the claimed inside lever and that the release lever 15 disclosed in *Jahrsetz et al.* corresponds to the claimed open link. However, the member 28 is not movable into and out of engagement with the release lever 15 as recited in independent Claims 1 and 18, and does not have a part engageable with an engaging portion of the release lever 15 as set forth in independent Claim 21. Rather, as pointed out above and specifically described in *Jahrsetz et al.*, it is the coupling pin 18 provided on the second lever portion 20 which contacts the release lever 15 (i.e., the abutment 16 of the release lever 15). Thus, independent Claims 1 and 18 which both define that the inside lever is movable into and out of engagement with the open link, and independent Claim 21 which defines that the inside lever has a part engageable with an engaging portion of the open link when the open link is in the unlocked position, cannot be anticipated by the disclosure contained in *Jahrsetz et al.* Accordingly, withdrawal of the anticipatory rejection of independent Claims 1, 18 and 21, and the various dependent claims, is respectfully requested.

Newly presented dependent Claims 22-24 define further distinguishing characteristics associated with the claimed door lock system. For example, Claim 22 defines that the open link is shiftable between unlocked and locked positions, with the open

link being engageable and disengageable with the latch mechanism when the open link is in the unlocked position and with the open link being unable to engage the latch mechanism when the open link is in the locked position. As pointed out above, the Official Action observes that the release lever 15 disclosed in *Jahrsetz et al.* corresponds to the claimed open link. However, that release lever 15 is not shiftable between unlocked and locked positions as recited in Claim 22.

Similarly, new dependent Claims 23 and 24 define that the open link is shiftable between unlocked and locked positions, with the open link being adapted to contact the unitarily rotatable element of the pawl to rotate the unitarily rotatable element and the pawl so that the pawl is moved out of contact with the latch when the open link is in the unlocked position, and with the open link being unable to contact the unitarily rotatable element when the open link is in the locked position. Once again, the release lever 15 disclosed in *Jahrsetz et al.*, which is said to correspond to the claimed open link, is not shiftable between unlocked and locked positions and thus cannot be said to disclose the additional features recited in dependent Claims 23 and 24.

For at least the reasons set forth above, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in

resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By: Matthew L. Schneider
Matthew L. Schneider
Registration No. 32,814

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620

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Attachment to Amendment dated April 29, 2003

Mark-up of Claim 21

21. (Amended) A door lock system for a vehicle comprising:

a rotatable latch including a latch groove for receiving a striker of a vehicle body;

a rotatable pawl adapted to contact the latch to prevent rotation of the latch, including a unitarily rotatable element that rotates unitarily with the pawl;

an open link adapted to contact the unitarily rotatable element to rotate the unitarily rotatable element and the pawl so that the pawl is moved out of contact with the latch, the open link being shiftable between an unlocked position and a locked position;

a swing lever connected to the open link;

a movable inside lever adapted to be operatively connected to a door handle to move in response to operation of the door handle, the inside lever having a part engageable with an engaging portion of the open link when the open link is in the unlocked position so that movement of the inside lever resulting from operation of the door handle causes the open link to move into contact with the unitarily rotatable element[, the part of the inside lever being unable to engage the engaging portion of the open link when the open link is in the unlocked position so that movement of the inside lever resulting from operation of the door handle does not cause the open link to move into contact with the unitarily rotatable element];

an electric driving source having a gear member; and

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a rotary gear member arranged between the swing lever and the electric driving source and in meshing engagement with the gear member of the electric driving source, the rotary gear member being directly connected to the swing lever, with operation of the rotary gear member moving the swing lever to shift the open link between the unlocked and locked positions.